



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Economic Services Administration
Division of Child Care and Early Learning
P.O. Box 45480, Olympia, Washington 98504-5480

August 7, 2003

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Mike Tornquist, Policy Administrator
Division of Child Care and Early Learning

SUBJECT: NEW CHAPTER 388-295 WAC, REPEALING CHAPTER 388-150 WAC

The Department of Social and Health Services, Economic Services Administration has rewritten the WACs for the minimum licensing requirements (MLR's) for Child Care Centers under new **Chapter 388-295 WAC**. The child care center MLR's explain DSHS responsibilities in licensing child care centers, as well as the minimum standards that those entities must comply with in order to become and remain licensed to provide care. This chapter has been rewritten using clear rule writing style, with a question and answer format, to make it more understandable to ESA's customers. In addition, rules pertaining to the health aspect of child care requirements have been included in this chapter.

For more information, view [WAC Migration Chart](#) and [July 15, 2003 letter](#).

New Sections:

- WAC 388-295-1120 What are the tuberculosis (TB) testing requirements for the staff?
- WAC 388-295-2100 What are the exceptions to group sizes and staff to child ratios?
- WAC 388-295-3020 How often must staff wash their hands?
- WAC 388-295-3040 How often must children wash their hands?
- WAC 388-295-4110 What additional sleeping arrangements must I make to reduce the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)?
- WAC 388-295-5030 What do I need to include in my disaster plan?
- WAC 388-295-5160 What do I need to know about pesticides?
- WAC 388-295-5170 Can we have animals at the center?
- WAC 388-295-7030 What type of attendance records do I have to keep?
- WAC 388-295-7040 Am I required to keep licensing information available on site for parents to review?

Sections with substantial changes:

- WAC 388-295-0010 What definitions under this chapter apply to licensed child care providers.
- WAC 388-295-2070 What do I need to transport the children on off-site trips?
- WAC 388-295-2080 What must I communicate to parents?
- WAC 388-295-2090 What are the required staff to child ratios and maximum group sizes for my center.
- WAC 388-295-2100 What are the exceptions to group sizes and staff to child ratios.
- WAC 388-295-3010 What kinds of health policies and procedures must I have?
- WAC 388-295-3060 Who can provide consent for me to give medication to the children in my care?
- WAC 388-295-3080 Can I use bulk medication (use one container for all children such as with diaper ointments)?
- WAC 388-295-3100 When can children take their own medications?
- WAC 388-295-3160 What kind of food and menus must I have?
- WAC 388-295-3180 What are approved food sources?
- WAC 388-295-3190 How can we be sure that the food we serve is safe?
- WAC 388-295-4020 How do we meet the nutritional needs of infants in our care?
- WAC 388-295-4030 What is a safe way to prepare bottles?
- WAC 388-295-4040 What is a safe way to store infant formula and food?
- WAC 388-295-4050 What is a safe way to store breast milk?
- WAC 388-295-4100 What sleep equipment do I need for infants?
- WAC 388-295-4120 What must I do to be sure that diaper changing is safe and does not spread infections?
- WAC 388-295-5020 How do I maintain a safe environment?
- WAC 388-295-5040 How do I maintain a clean and sanitized environment?
- WAC 388-295-5050 How can I make sure water activities are as safe and sanitary as possible?
- WAC 388-295-5070 How do I make sure my water is safe?
- WAC 388-295-5080 How do I safely get rid of sewage and liquid wastes?
- WAC 388-295-5100 What are the requirements for toilets, hand washing sinks, and bathing facilities?
- WAC 388-295-7010 What information must be kept in the child's individual file?
- WAC 388-295-7080 What am I required to post in the center?

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Although we have attempted to list the changes in Chapter 388-295 WAC for your convenience to utilize in becoming familiar with the new WAC, it is imperative that you read the entire new WAC to ensure that you understand the subtle changes as well.

If you have any questions regarding this memo, please contact Carla Gira at (360) 413-3268 or giracg@dshs.wa.gov.

cc: Rachael Langen
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